REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not descriptive. The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,212,640 to Abdelnur, et al. (Abdelnur). In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, 19, and 22-24, but have not added or canceled any claim. Accordingly, claims 1-24 will be pending in the application after entry of this Amendment.

I.   Objection to the Title

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not descriptive. Applicants have amended the specification to provide the title "Method and Apparatus for Automated Remote Volume Mounting." In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title.

II.   Rejection of claims 1-18 under §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under §102(e) as being anticipated by Abdelnur. Claims 2-18 are dependent directly or indirectly on independent claim 1. Claim 1 recites a method that automatically mounts several remote volumes to a client. The method, without receiving a request from a user of the client to mount the volumes, requests of a first server the mounting of the volumes. The method returns by the first server a set of mounting parameters. The method automatically mounts the volumes using the returned parameters. After mounting, the volumes behave as if native to the client, even though the volumes are located remote to the client.

Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest such a method. The Examiner cites column 5, line 61, to column 6, line 15, in Abdelnur to reject claim 1. The cited portion of Abdelnur describes a network file system (NFS). Abdelnur states

that resources may be shared over the NFS. Abdelnur further states that a resource (i.e., software) physically linked to an NFS server may be "NFS mounted." However, the statement in Abdelnur that resources (software) may be shared over a NFS does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the limitations of claim 1, as recited above. For instance, Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest a method that automatically mounts several remote volumes to a client by: (1) requesting of a first server the mounting of the volumes, without receiving a request from a user of the client to mount the volumes, (2) returning by the first server a set of mounting parameters, and (3) automatically mounting the volumes using the returned parameters.

Abdelnur also states that when a new resource (software) is "mounted" to the NFS, a new entry is generated in a mount table automatically and is used to locate the resource whenever a request for access to that resource is made by a client. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portion of Abdelnur cannot disclose the method of claim 1 because Abdelnur simply does not discuss the automatic mounting of remote volumes to a client (i.e., without receiving a request from a user of the client to mount the volumes). Moreover, Abdelnur does not disclose automatically mounting the volumes using a set of returned mounting parameters. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur neither anticipates claim 1, nor otherwise renders this claim invalid. As claims 2-18 are dependent on claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur neither anticipates, nor otherwise invalidates claims 2-18 for at least the reasons that were discussed above in relation to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-18.

III.   Rejection of claims 19-21 under §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 19-21 under §102(e) as being anticipated by Abdelnur. Claims 20-21 are dependent directly or indirectly on independent claim 19. Claim 19 recites a system for automatically mounting volumes over a network. The system has a client configured to automatically request the mounting of the volumes without the need for a user of the client to request the mounting of the volumes. The system also has a server coupled to the client. The server is configured to return a mounting command block to the client.

Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest such a system. The Examiner cites column 5, line 61, to column 6, line 15, to reject claim 19. As discussed above in relation to claim 1, the cited portion of Abdelnur describes a network file system (NFS). Abdelnur states that resources may be shared over the NFS. However, the statement in Abdelnur that resources may be shared over a NFS does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the limitations of claim 19, as recited above. For instance, Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest a system for automatically mounting volumes over a network where the system has a client configured to automatically request the mounting without the need for a user of the client to request the mounting. Moreover, the cited portion of Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest a server that is configured to return a mounting command block to the client, as recited in claim 19.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur neither anticipates claim 19, nor otherwise renders this claim invalid. As claims 20-21 are dependent on claim 19, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur neither anticipates claims 20-21, nor otherwise renders these claims invalid for at least the reasons that were discussed above for claim 19.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 19-21.

IV. Rejection of claim 22 under §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claim 22 under §102(e) as being anticipated by Abdelnur. Claim 22 recites an article that includes a computer readable medium that has stored instructions. When executed, the instructions cause automatic mounting of several volumes to a client. The instructions, without receiving a request from a user of the client to mount the volumes, request of a first server the mounting of the volumes. The instructions return by the first server a set of mounting parameters. The instructions automatically mount the volumes using the returned parameters. After mounting, the volumes behave as if native to the client, even though the volumes are located remote to the client.

Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the limitations of claim 22. The Examiner cites column 5, line 61, to column 6, line 15, in Abdelnur to reject claim 22. This cited portion of Abdelnur describes a network file system (NFS). Abdelnur states that resources may be shared over the NFS. However, Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the limitations of claim 22. For instance, Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest <u>automatically mounting several volumes to a client</u> without receiving a request from a user of the client to mount the volumes. Moreover, Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest automatically mounting the volumes using a set of returned mounting parameters. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur neither anticipates claim 22, nor otherwise renders this claim invalid.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claim 22.

V. Rejection of claim 23 under §102(e)

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The Examiner rejected claim 23 under §102(e) as being anticipated by Abdelnur. Claim 23 recites, in a computer system having a processor and memory, an apparatus for automatically mounting several remote volumes to the computer system. The apparatus includes a plug-in module configured to receive from a server a mounting command block. The mounting command block includes volume-mounting parameters. The apparatus includes an API coupled to the plug-in module and configured to automatically mount the volumes specified in the mounting command block. The mounting is performed without the need for user intervention.

Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the limitations of claim 23. The Examiner cites column 5, lines 5-40, and column 6, lines 16-40, in Abdelnur to reject claim 23. The cited portions of Abdelnur describe Java applets being provided by a web server. The cited portions further describe an application programming interface (API). However, these portions of Abdelnur simply do not disclose, teach, or even suggest a computer system apparatus for automatically mounting several remote volumes to a computer system that includes:

- a plug-in module configured to receive from a server a mounting command block;

- the mounting command block includes volume-mounting parameters;

- an API coupled to the plug-in module and configured to automatically mount the volumes specified in the mounting command block; and

- the mounting is performed without the need for user intervention.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest several limitations recited in claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur neither anticipates claim 23, nor otherwise renders this claim invalid.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claim 23.

IV.   Rejection of claim 24 under §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claim 24 under §102(e) as being anticipated by Abdelnur. Claim 24 recites an apparatus for automatically mounting several volumes to a client. The apparatus includes means for requesting of a first server the mounting of the volumes, without receiving a request from a user of the client to mount the volumes. The apparatus includes means for returning by the first server a set of mounting parameters. The apparatus also includes means for automatically mounting the volumes using the returned parameters. After mounting, the volumes behave as if native to the client, even though the volumes are located remote to the client.

Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest such an apparatus. The Examiner cites column 5, line 61, to column 6, line 15, in Abdelnur to reject claim 24. This cited portion of Abdelnur describes a network file system (NFS). Abdelnur states that resources may be shared over the NFS. However, this portion of Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the limitations of claim 24. For instance, Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest <u>automatically mounting several volumes to a client</u>, without receiving a request from a user of the client to mount the volumes. Moreover, the cited portion of Abdelnur does not disclose, teach, or even suggest automatically mounting the volumes using a set of returned mounting parameters. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Abdelnur neither anticipates claim 24, nor otherwise renders this claim invalid.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claim 24.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 1-24, are

in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested.

Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/04/2004   By: _____

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